

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

## **Communion is Communion**

Michael Commane

Two weeks ago I wrote a piece in 'The Irish Times' about the Eucharist. I was making the point that the Eucharist is about communion. I questioned the value of webcam Masses.

In the following days people expressed their views on the piece.

'The Irish Times' columnist, Breda O'Brien started out saying that I made an interesting point and then went on to shred the argument in pieces.

I used live-streaming as a springboard in making the point that the Mass is not a spectator event.

The Mass is communion.

The Eucharist is about communion, about our relationship with one another and our relationship with God.

We have such a wonderful prayer, such a life-giving celebration in our hands and then so easily we seem to be able to turn it into a non-event. It can become an empty ritual, indeed, so meaningless that large numbers have walked away.

Communion is about fellowship. When we say the Eucharist is at the centre of the Christian message we are saying exactly that it is intrinsically linked to every aspect of our lives and our lifestyles. At Mass we are never spectators. The Mass brings us together, indeed, it helps bring about our unity. And in that sense it's upsetting to hear people talk about 'getting Mass'.

Mass is a vibrant event in the Christian life and it's up to all of us to play a real and active part in making the Eucharist a true celebration of our Christian faith and then live it in a dynamic manner as the apostles and disciples of Jesus did.

The Eucharist can never be a spectator event. It is always a lived reality.

It's such a joy to cycle down to the church every week morning to join a group of fellow Christians for our 07.30 Mass.

There are between 30 and 40 present and then during Advent and Lent the number can go up to 50. But what's important about it, at least in my opinion, is that we know each other.

We are breaking bread together. And for that to reach down to our bones, surely there has to be communion between us.

I'm thinking out loud, but is there not something strange about breaking bread with complete strangers?

Is that heresy? It could make for interesting discussion.

Why have so many people walked away from our Eucharistic celebration?

Communion is about communion.

## **New Parish Webcam**

As the Government and health authorities have mandated a 'stay at home' policy, Mass will be celebrated in Three Patrons via our new webcam on the website:

***rathgarparish.ie***

The following is the schedule for this week:

**Sunday 12 noon**

**Monday 11am**

**Wednesday 11am**

**Friday 11am**

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Mass on the **Beechwood Avenue webcam** is as follows:

**Sunday 10.00am**

**Tuesday 11.00am**

**Thursday 11.00am**

## **First Communion 2020**

Mass today Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May will be offered for this year's First Communion candidates and their families. This would have been the First Communion day for children from Kildare Place, Rathgar Junior, Rathgar National, and Zion Schools.

We know you will all be upset at missing this wonderful celebration, but we want you to know you are in our thoughts, and we ask all our parishioners to remember you in their prayers.

We still do not know when First Communion will happen, but we promise you it will be a wonderful day for you and your families, and during Mass today, a candle will be lit on the altar rails for each one of you.

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Jackie Hearne on 087 7422653

## **Rosary in Eucharistic Adoration**

*Pope Francis has asked that, during the Month of May, the Rosary should be recited in the Church right across the World in the context of the coronavirus and its effect*

Throughout the month of May

Adoration will take place from

**6.00pm - 7.00pm**

during which the Rosary will be recited,

and this will be available live on the webcam at [rathgarparish.ie](http://rathgarparish.ie)

## **An appeal from Rathgar Society of St Vincent de Paul**

During the current crisis, we are making every effort to continue to support those who need our assistance. We have, of course, experienced an increase in requests for help, and we would very much welcome your support for us and those we assist at this unprecedented time.

There are envelopes at the back of the church, and you can leave your donation in the safe beside the Pieta shrine.

*Thank You*